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TELEPHONE CALLS:
Business Office Main 1722
Editorial and News Main 1746

Chicago Representative:
Henry DeClerque, 701-702 Schiller Building,
New York Office:
L. Klebahn, Manager, 1 West 34th Street.

SAINT JOHN, WEDNESDAY MORNING, JULY 27, 1910

A LONDON OFFICE FOR NEW BRUNSWICK.

The opening of an office in London last Monday as headquarters in Great Britain for the province of New Brunswick is further evidence of the forward immigration policy of the provincial government. For the first time New Brunswick has an office of her own in the capital of the Empire. Under the old and haphazard methods of the late administration this province had no adequate or suitable representation in England. It was thought sufficient to have an agent-general who had his own business to look after and whose office was situated in an out of the way corner of the Leather Market on the south side of the Thames. As for any active campaign work to secure settlers for this province, there was none.

This system, if system it can be called, has been abolished by the Hazen government. The province now has an active agent in London in the person of Mr. Bowdler, who is devoting his whole time to immigration matters. The new and commodious offices, which were opened by Lord Strathcona on Monday, will do much to aid him in his work. With headquarters in Southampton Street, Strand, in the heart of the Metropolis, New Brunswick is now in a position to compete on more equal terms with her sister provinces. Arrangements are being made to exhibit the resources and products of the province, and the campaign to secure settlers, which has already been productive of good results, will be actively prosecuted.

It is the habit of organs of the local opposition to attempt to discredit the immigration policy of the Hazen government. It is pointed out that the stream of settlers to New Brunswick is but small in comparison with other provinces. These critics find it convenient to forget that when the local government came into office a little over two years ago, they found this department in common with all other departments of provincial affairs badly in need of reorganization. They had to clear away much useless debris and build anew. The results attained so far have amply justified the policy they then inaugurated.

THE DIVORCE PROBLEM.

The Royal Commission on Divorce, which has been sitting in London for some months past, has adjourned till a date set in October. The most interesting evidence given just before adjournment was that of Mrs. Eleanor M. Swanwick, who said she considered that marriage should be made a civil contract, leaving the parties to go through a religious ceremony afterwards if they wished. In her opinion most young people would find a civil marriage a more serious affair than they did a marriage performed at a church. They had a feeling that it was very wicked to break the marriage contract, but somehow it did not matter. She thought that when the law failed to secure monogamy it should be admitted that it had failed of its purpose. Marriage as a civil institution should be concerned to safeguard, first, the welfare of the children; and, secondly, the social and economic position of women who, by marrying, generally abandoned any social and economic position they might have actually or in prospect.

Mrs. Swanwick regarded the present position, in which poverty was a bar to divorce, as injurious to the institution of matrimony, because when people could not obtain divorce, they tended to live promiscuously. She did not regard the misconduct of married people as preferable to divorce. Separation orders, she said, were in many ways inequitable for the woman. When a wife was separated from her husband for cruelty, she could live with another woman, but his wife could not divorce him. On the other hand, the husband could live with another with impunity, but if the wife did so she lost her allowance and was helpless. Divorce, she considered, should be obtainable by either partner for persistent cruelty, habitual drunkenness, infidelity, incurable or recurrent insanity. In divorce cases women should be half the jury, and when cases involving the relations of the sexes came before magistrates, one of the magistrates should be a woman.

At this point in the evidence of the witness, the chairman of the Commission suggested that some previous witnesses had said it was perfectly easy for women to prove cruelty before a jury of men. To the question whether it would be harder to do so with women on the jury, the witness replied that she thought women would be more inclined to consider the position of the children. Proceeding, Mrs. Swanwick said the laws of inheritance should be altered so as to make it impossible for a husband to disinherit his wife or his children while under age. The laws of maintenance should be altered, so as to give the wife a fixed proportion of her husband's earnings. If the wife had not been adequately supported, she ought to be able to get an order against her husband without separating.

The contention of Mrs. Swanwick that in England poverty is a bar to divorce is equally true in Canada. A rather striking instance of this occurred last week in the Toronto police court. The facts of the case so impressed the sitting magistrate that he gave the defendant, found guilty of bigamy, a sentence of only ninety days in jail.

The man in the dock said he was just a wild boy when he ran away and married a woman of bad character. He was under the influence of liquor, and when he discovered that he was married he left the woman and had seen her but once in fifteen years. After a time he decided to settle down to a life of respectability. He married a good woman, and their lives were happily spent until the cloud of his earlier marriage reappeared. The court pointed out that it was the second wife in such a case who suffered, together with her children. Had the prisoner been able to obtain a divorce the innocent woman, as well as the prisoner, would not have been disgraced. "The trouble is a man of this kind cannot get a divorce," remarked the magistrate. The crown attorney said a divorce would cost \$1,000, but the court thought it would cost \$2,000. It was agreed that the prisoner was entitled to a divorce. He was without the means of financing his freedom, however, and must pay the penalty in the exposure of his wife to the world's scorn, not to mention a short term in jail for himself.

If divorce is possible to an aggrieved party to a marriage, there should be no distinction. The way to divorce should not be made more simple, yet neither should it be necessary for an applicant to spend \$2,000 to secure legal freedom.

THE VALUE OF PEAT.

The subjects of the papers and the discussions at the annual convention of the American Peat Society, which is now being held in Ottawa under the presidency of Dr. Haanel, Dominion director of mines, should have more than passing interest to the people of this province. Little of a practical nature has ever been done to ascertain the value of the large deposits of peat in this province. That they are of value there can be no doubt. The subject is well worthy of investigation.

Deposits of peat are common both in the United States and Canada. It is estimated that the 11,000 square miles of peat bogs in the United States, exclusive of Alaska, would yield about thirteen thousand million tons of fuel, the value of which at \$3 a ton would be \$39,000,000,000. The amount, and value of the peat deposits in Canada have not even been estimated, so little is known of their extent; but some geologists who have studied the question believed that the quantity exceeds the United States estimate.

About the practicability of using peat as a fuel there is no doubt. In Europe, over ten million of tons are produced and used annually. It is being utilized to advantage in gas-producers and gas engines. Probably the comparative cheapness of coal on this continent accounts for the small progress which has been made in the use of peat as a fuel. It has not the heat-producing power of coal, and in order to compete successfully with the standard fuel it would have to be sold at a much lower price. This is where the difficulty lies. Coal is sold in practically the same condition in which it is mined. Peat, after being cut, requires to be dried and pressed into briquets before being fit for use. The cost of this process is the chief factor in the cost of the finished product; and the finished product is inferior to coal and must therefore be sold at a lower price.

The work of preparation as fuel has been so difficult and costly that many of those who engaged in it have met with extreme discouragements. Besides, the expense of transportation to market served as a further embarrassment to the industry, as did also the fact that competition with a much better class of fuel, coal, would often be encountered at a distance of only a few hundred miles from the peat bog.

By degrees, however, some of these hindrances have been overcome. The art of squeezing the water out of peat economically has at last been mastered. Sensible progress has been made in working the product up into briquettes, so that it can more readily be burned. The process of manufacturing gas from it that can be employed in an internal combustion engine has been developed, and gives excellent results. A plant of that kind, of course, can be made a centre for the distribution of power by electricity or otherwise. Finally, some of the larger deposits are so remote from the coal mines that there seems to be a chance to escape competition with the latter completely.

The Canadian association which is to be formed this week will have great opportunities to make the value of peat as a fuel more widely known. Much can be done in this direction through an educational campaign.

CURRENT COMMENT

(Stratford Herald.)

Mr. Borden has never shown any such humor as these gay blades of Ontario Liberalism. It is doubtful if he could rival Mr. Fielding in getting off those annual surplus jokes and persuading some of the people that they are growing rich by what he saved out of their taxes, while all the time he is adding to their debt by what he borrows to keep the political machine running, and pleasing the men who like big appropriations for the day, no matter what may be the final result.

(Toronto News.)

The United States is beginning to see the end of its raw materials. Timber and iron ore are disappearing. In Canada we are only beginning to uncover our resources. By the aid of the tariff, American capital is coming to help in their development. In every respect, economically, our position is secure, and it is difficult to see what possible reason could induce any Canadian to complain at it.

(Rochester Herald.)

Indianapolis is to have an ordinance forbidding the use of any other warning contrivance on an automobile than the ordinary "honk." It has been moved thereto, no doubt, by the invention of a nondescript noise maker which emits a sound somewhat resembling a hippopotamus with a spring cold in his head. When this thing coughs timid persons almost have a fit.

(Portland Oregonian.)

Another American woman abroad has been killed and the arrest of her husband is expected when he lands; but as this crime was committed in England, the murder will be avenged. There is no juggling with justice in Great Britain.

(Ottawa Evening Journal.)

It is announced that Capt. Bernier's orders on this present Arctic trip give him great latitude. The greatest and only latitude Capt. Bernier requires is Latitude 90, the North Pole, and that is the one latitude the government will not permit.

(Washington Herald.)

Porter Charlton, it is said, suffers from "confusional insanity," "exhaustive psychosis" and "hebephrenia." This suggests the suspicion that Charlton's annual income must run well up into six figures.

(Montreal Herald.)

John D. Rockefeller is out with a suggestion that the churches combine. The next step will undoubtedly be the restriction of the output of Christians and a higher price for church pews.

THE HARVEST.

Chant the harvest song of the brawny reapers.
Bare arms bronzed and muscles as train and gauged
Like the oak boughs tossed by the winds of winter
Hoarse in their triumph!

Chant the scythe, its gleam in the golden windrows
Where the cornflower shines with its morning sapphire,
When the wheat is ripe for the wain in waiting,
Ripe for the gleaners!

Sing surcease from toil in the long sweet shadows,
Doves that coo and murmur of loving voices,
All the large content in the dreams that gather
After the harvest!

—Clinton Scollard.

THE DIVINE RULE OF THE UNIVERSE.

Every man knows without telling that this wonderful fabric of the universe is not without a governor, and that a constant order cannot be the work of chance; for the parts would then fall foul one upon another. The motions of the stars and their influences are acted by the command of an eternal decree. It is by the dictates of an Almighty Power that the heavy body of the earth hangs in balance.

—Seneca.

Good Stories

A travelling clergyman was holding services at the church in a little town in Maine situated up near the Canadian line. At the close of his sermon he offered to pray for any relatives of those present who might be in distant lands, and a lean, lanky lumberman rose in the rear of the church and requested prayer for his brother who had been missing for over two weeks.

"I don't know just where my brother is, parson," he stated, "but I don't believe that it's worth while to pray any further south than Bangor."

Then it Happened



"Hang it all," said Hobo Sam, as he left the back door of the farmhouse where they had sought to make him work in the fields, "this sure is a hard world."

And in a moment of preoccupation common to philosophers, he thoughtlessly kicked the big bulldog which lay curled up beside the kitchen porch. (The End.)

JOSH WISE SAYS:

"A man who gets cold feet is pretty sure to get the cold shoulder, too."

Riggs—Did your wife's father settle anything on you when you married his daughter?
Bridges—You bet he did. He settled himself on us, and we can't get rid of him.

Wire (reproachfully)—Before we were married you used to like to have me caress you.
Hub—Well, every caress didn't call for a new dress or a new hat then.

Cityman—I suppose you have a dog on your place to keep tramps off.

Suburban—No, but I have a horse that scares them away.
C.—A vicious horse?
S.—No, it's very quiet. It's a saw-horse.

Boy—Another oxtail, please.
Butcher—Did your mother like the last one she had?
Boy—Yes; and she says she wants this one off the same ox, please.

Tourist—Why do you call this a volcano? I don't believe it has had an eruption for a thousand years!
Guide—Well, the hotel keepers in this region club together and keep a fire going in it every year, during the season.

M. le Baron—Mme. is going out in the car, Joseph. Be careful to blow the tires up well.

Chaufeur—M. le Baron may be assured that I shall blow them up as if it were M. le Baron himself.

First Clubman—What have you lost sir? Can I help you?
Second Clubman—I've lost some toffee.

First Clubman—Toffee? What rot!
Second Clubman—Yes; but my teeth are in it.

Employer—Come here, young man. I understand you've been gambling in rubber shares.

Clerk—Yes, sir. I made £120 last week.

Employer—Great Scott. Do you know anything else?

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ceful experiments off the Isle of Wight with the device which illuminates shells used for night firing. To the base of the shell a metal cylinder is attached by a screw movement, and the act of firing the gun causes a powerful illuminant to burst into flame. This burns brightly throughout the whole of the trajectory of the missile. It is especially useful in testing the effectiveness of range at night both over sea and over land. It also shows the course of the shell. During ricochet it was seen to be most variable. In some cases the shell on striking the waters of the Solent shot vertically upward, a very surprising result, while in many instances it was deflected to the right or left.



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